

A School Wedding Surprise

Cinco Ranch High School teacher Bruce Hayes dazzles his bride of 25 years with a reenactment of their wedding day on campus

Written by Kirsten Cornell | Select photography by John Mann

When Sharon and Bruce Hayes decided to get married, they wanted their students to be involved. "I loved those students like family," Sharon adds, then an elementary teacher in Arlington. "Bruce proposed to me in the teacher's lounge at lunch and the first thing we did was run to the cafeteria to tell my students." One of her students, Dustin Do, asked if they would be getting married at the school, too. "I know it might sound crazy, but it was the perfect idea because all my students could to come to the wedding," she laughs.



With that, they began making plans and she walked down the cafeteria aisle of Berry Elementary to the love of her life while her students sang, "Love Can Build a Bridge." Fast forward 25 years later, and Bruce got the inkling to recreate their unique experience.

A Cinco Celebration

"Cinco Ranch High School (CRHS) was the obvious choice. We were back in a school surrounded by the most important people in our lives; outside of family of course," Bruce says. He kept the whole reenactment under his hat and a complete surprise from Sharon. "I



honestly had no idea what Bruce was planning, which is obvious with all the crying I did in the video and pictures,” she laughs.

The wedding took about two weeks to plan and included many of their beloved students, and of course their two sons, Brady and Anthony Hayes. “My students were very helpful in pulling things off,” adds Bruce. “They decorated and the Bravo Show Choir learned our song. Having them sing was my favorite moment.”

Bruce, who was chosen as favorite faculty member for CRHS, told Sharon that she needed to come to the campus because the school wanted a commemorative photo with them and Principal James Cross. When



Sharon arrived, she was instead greeted with a bouquet, veil, and ushered to her wedding. “I was so overwhelmed that so many students and kids I have known since our own son started school in Katy ISD 13 years ago were there to be a part of this. Seeing all the signs, the hanging banner, everyone cheering - it was all really touching,” she says. “I never could have imagined anything so great.”

As for their 50th anniversary, Bruce says he’s unsure of what he’s planning. Perhaps another reenactment with several grandchildren involved. **KM**

KIRSTEN CORNELL is the lead associate editor of Katy Magazine. She and the rest of the editorial staff cried while watching the Hayes reenactment wedding video.

Wedding Party

MAID OF HONOR
Allyson Stephens

OFFICIANT
Principal James Cross

BEST MEN
Brady and Anthony Hayes

BRIDESMAIDS
Emily Snow, Mary Jane Snow, and Cindy Reeter

VIDEOGRAPHERS
Arturo Argueta and Nick Giacometto





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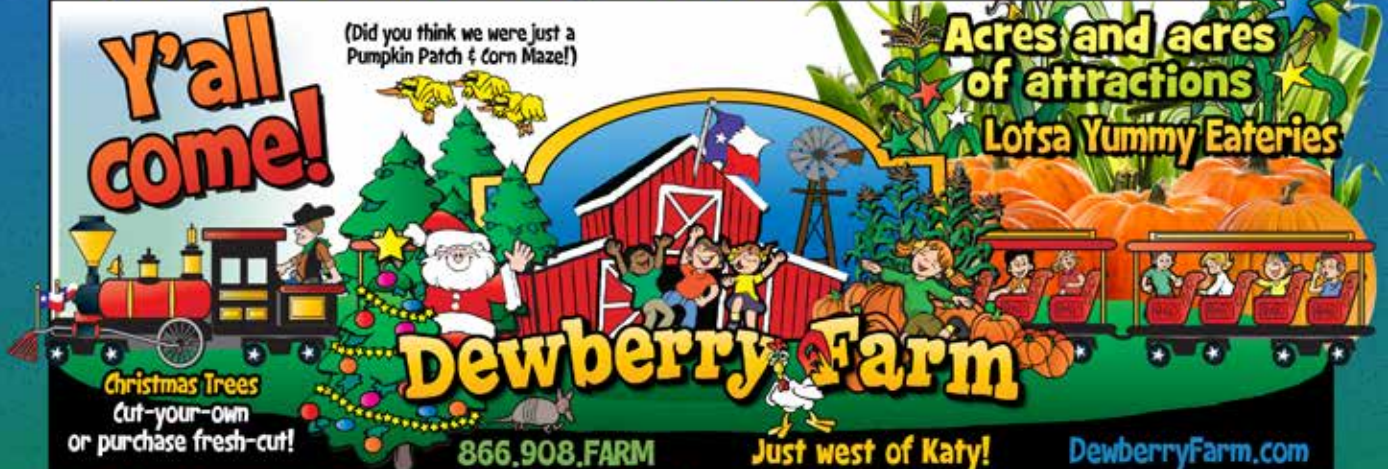
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